NUMB. XXVIII.] THE [FEBRUARY 3, 1787.

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

Price SIX-PENCE.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1787. [VOL. I.

Concluſion of the Proceedings of the General Aſſembly, on the report of the committee (conſiſting of Meſſrs. Wynkoop, Brackenridge, and Whitehill (directing a bill to be brought in, to authoriſe the receiver general to receive, for arrearages due on lands purchaſed before the fourth of July, 1776, three fourth parts of ſuch arrearages in depreciation and other certificates, in the manner he now receives bills of credit of this ſtate of the firſt of June 1780, and the ſeventh of April, 1781.

[Mr. Morris' ſpeech, continued.]

I Will mention another reaſon why the report ſhould not be adopted which will be equally allowed: it will prevent a ſpecies of ſpeculation, which we are conſtantly reprobating. It has been ſaid, that the people will vacate their lands and ſo extinguiſh the debt, after which they will take them up under another law at ten pounds per hundred acres!---But, ſir, it is our duty to prevent this; and as the gentleman has put us on our guard, I hope the committee will report a plan for this purpoſe, when they are taking into view to allow thoſe who are unable to pay a longer time, and to compel thoſe who have ability.

I find in the report of the committee of ways and means laſt year, that there was emitted of the five hundred thouſand pounds ordered to be ſtruck by a law paſſed the ſeventh of April, 1781, no more than 430,500l. of which has been burnt, 145,400, and yet in the continental treaſury, 32,429 15 7. We are informed that theſe bills were given them in exchange for other money; but this is no reaſon that the money ſhould not be redeemed; for ſo long as it is not in the treaſury of the ſtate, it muſt be conſidered as a debt which we muſt eventually diſcharge: and beſide this there is yet in circulation 72,262 16 10, and ſeveral accounts and balances due, to be paid in ſtate money, 14,652l. and to exchange other bills of June, 1780, 4,000l. I could wiſh to know what of theſe laſt have been iſſued, for I believe there was much of it paſſed, and how far the engagement to pay out again this money is to be complied with; and how, if the fund is transferred, we are to comply with the promiſe to exchange ſpecie for this money, when the holders ſhortly come forward to demand it, under the faith and honour of the government? muſt we ſay we have not yet got it, and you muſt return the bills to your cheſt: this will be an uncouth anſwer, when no longer than laſt year, you laid a certain fund for redeeming it. This is making things worſe rather than better.

And what are you to ſay to thoſe who have actually paid up their arrearages? It will ſurely be putting the delinquents in a better ſituation, and as I ſaid before, you muſt return the others their money, to entitle them to make payment in the ſame manner; but this you cannot do, and therefore if this report is adopted, it is rewarding, and conſequently encouraging delinquency, and nobody would in future pay any tax or other demand but in certificates: then what is the intereſt on the remainder to be paid with, or what ſupports the arrangements of the ſtate? muſt the certificates that are received of one inſtead of ſpecie be given out again to others in lieu of the ſame? A gentleman (Mr. Findley) allows it to be juſt, but aſks, if it would not be political to obtain the payment in the paper money or ſpecie? To which I anſwer without heſitation, yes; it would be as political as it is juſt, for good policy is ever founded in juſtice.

This we may be aſſured of, that the people can have no cauſe of complaint when they pay only the ſame as others have done, and they ever expected, and for which they have received the greateſt compenſation: but if payment in this kind cannot be obtained of the poor, I ſhall have no objection to adopt any meaſure that will by giving time, tend to their relief.

But I never ſhall agree to let a ſmall part of the public creditors receive immediately their particular debt, to the diſadvantage of the whole, unleſs when that was diſcharged I ſaw a probability of redeeming and putting an end to the whole. I could follow the gentlemen through more of their arguments, but do not ſee any good end it would anſwer --but I hope, if the report is adopted, and the major part of the public creditors to loſe this fund for the benefit of a few, that means will be taken to give them the ſame advantage, which I believe at preſent to be impoſſible.

Mr. Fitzſimons. I will juſt obſerve the great conſequences which adopting or rejecting this report draw after it. The gentleman laſt up has drawn the ſubject within a ſmall compaſs---in fact it lies within a ſmall compaſs. There is juſtice due from this houſe to all the citizens of the ſtate, but particularly to its creditors. It will be neceſſary to take this up a little earlier than where other gentlemen have began, in order to ſhew in what ſituation theſe people ſtand. The gentleman from Weſtmoreland (Mr. Findley) has taken it up in the year 1781, and ſays they had then an equal advantage to the one propoſed them by the report: that paper money was worth no more at that time than certificates are now. But this debt was contracted ever ſince 1769, when the proprietary ſold the lands purchaſed of the Indians, and paper was at that time equal to ſpecie. In 1781 the legiſlature, deſirous of giving the money they then emitted a ſolid credit, indulged the payment of theſe debts in that particular kind, and this indulgence was great indeed: for before it was all ſtruck off, it had depreciated to two, three, four, five, and ſix for one; yet they did not withhold the iſſuing of it: and notwithſtanding this and the lenity at different times extended them, theſe debtors have ſtill neglected to pay. If people will not pay in ſixteen or ſeventeen years, neither will they hereafter pay, for it is a truth that thoſe accuſtomed to long indulgence expect it to be continued, and are induced to believe they are entirely forgiven, this I am well acquainted with.

Again, the very expectation of theſe meaſures operates to prevent the people coming forward to pay, expecting by keeping back they will be enabled to obtain another interference of the houſe in their favor. Upon enquiring at the office I find that during nine months, fifteen thouſand pounds had been received, and in the laſt month no more than two hundred pounds, therefore I conclude it operates to encourage delinquency. That this reaſoning is true I need only take notice of what the worthy member from the county (Mr. Robinſon) hinted at; when the ſtate took the proprietaries eſtates from them: they forgave all who were delinquents in the payment of their quit-rents, &c. that was due from them, which was calculated to exceed at that time, 300,000l. ſterling. It might be well enough, but people who are not paid by the ſtate, what is their due to this day, may aſk why you then forgave them when you were ſo much in debt to others? But after thus forgiving them 300,000l. ſterling, you muſt now forgive them 500,000l. more! This ſurely is not diſtributive juſtice, nor is it policy to compliment one part at the expence of the other.

It is unjuſt and impolitic in another view; the fund is pledged with the faith and honor of government, and cannot be given away.

[He here went over the ſame round of arguments nearly as had been uſed by other gentlemen.]

It makes me extremely ſorry to follow the gentleman (Mr. Whitehill) in one of his arguments, but as he had uſed them, I think it my duty to reply---He ſays, if we endeavour to inforce the collection of this money, it will produce fatal conſequences: the arguments made uſe of here might tend more to make it ſo; but whenever the public are called upon to contribute to the ſupport and exigencies of the ſtate. I hope they will conſider it as their own act and ſhew the ready compliance of good citizens.---- But it will be neceſſary that government ſhould have the means of carrying it into effect: if we admit of a different principle, if we admit the gentleman's argument, what will the people ſay when called on to pay their taxes or other dues? Why you cannot make me pay, for it was uſed as an argument in the aſſembly that you could not. I hope there is no fact to warrant it.

Another gentleman (Mr. Findley) ſays, by laying a tax to redeem this money you have changed the fund; but after the gentleman conſiders the arguments of the gentleman from the country (Mr. Robinſon) on this point, he will give up that opinion.

I now hope the aſſembly of Pennſylvania will ſhew a proper regard to her faith and honor, and diſcourage all applications in future for a violation thereof by their preſent determination.

I could make another obſervation on what has been ſaid of receiving certificates inſtead of money, but I forbear, hoping enough has been ſaid to induce the houſe to reject the propoſed meaſures.

Mr. Findley---ſtill ſuppoſed the gentlemen miſtook the part of the ſtate where this debt principally lay: it was not in the Indian purchaſe, as Mr. Fitzſimons ſeemed to have hinted. He here explained why it did not lay there, after which he proceeded to reply to other matters. It has been obſerved by a worthy gentleman from the city (Mr. Morris) that I ſaid it was juſt, but not politic. I ſaid it was juſtice in either ſcale, but let policy preponderate: It was juſt to obtain it in ſpecie, and it was juſt to receive it in certificates, for it was only ſetting one debt againſt another.

Our arguments and wiſhes tend to ſupport both the ſame, but we differ in the means: the ſtate would get their debts better and more conveniently paid by this method than any other.

It has been ſaid by (Mr. Robinſon) that the taxes were only in addition, when they were more than adequate of themſelves to the diſcharge of the whole of the bills emitted in 1781. Will gentlemen ſay that the fourth part of the arrearage fund, with the taxes already appropriated, are not enough for the redemption of that money? if I thought it was not, I would be on the other ſide of the queſtion.

It is alledged that it would be doing an injury to the major part of the public creditors, but I think otherwiſe: it would tend to ſerve all, for it would be giving a ſpring and circulation to them by lightening of the burthen in ſo great a degree—can you lay your hand upon a fund that will operate ſo fully, be ſo grateful to the people and convenient to the ſtate?

Moreover, one fourth part is to be paid in paper money or ſpecie, which fourth part is more than ſufficient for the redemption of the whole; why confine ſo large a fund as 500,000l. for ſo ſmall a ſum as remains of the paper money to be brought in? When gentlemen conſider this, he had no doubt but they would agree to its releaſe.

Mr. Whitehill obſerved upon what had been ſaid by the gentlemen from the city and county (Mr. Fitzſimons and Mr. Robinſon) reſpecting the three hundred thouſand pounds ſterling, which had been given away by a former houſe of aſſembly; that the quit rents and arrearages were not then due, nor were they a juſt debt—this was the reaſon they were given up. Again, it had been ſaid we are taking away the fund, but it is not withdrawing the fund. It is only putting it in motion, for the people ſtill are to pay one fourth of the arrearages, which will be more than 75,000l.

As to what he alledges of Great-Britain, I only remark, we are to do as well as we can. We have this in hand, and are not ſure in calculating upon taxes.

Taxes are coming into diſrepute; the peoples hearts are almoſt broke with them; upwards of 400,000l. uncollected.

Gentlemen talk of the indulgencies which have been given; but was it right to give them? The time is now come that we cannot calculate on taxes. I wiſh to do juſtice to all mankind as far as in my power. A gentlemen (Mr. Morris) means to make a diſtinction between thoſe who are able and unable to pay; how will he find that out? I am ſurpriſed a gentleman of his knowledge, and who is ſo converſant and experienced in law, ſhould expect it to be poſſible to make the diſtinction—I ſhall ſay no more to this, as every body will ſee the impropriety of it. It has been urged that it is a debt due to the whole people, and can a debt bear harder upon the whole than upon a few.

A gentleman (Mr. Fitzſimons) had ſaid that the arguments I uſed tended to cauſe diſturbance and rebellion: I don't wiſh to go ſo far with the power of the ſtate as to force ſuch effects; but if the report is adopted the funds now applied to payment of intereſt will be releaſed and the public credit take a ſpring which tend to its reſtoration; the people will be made happy, they will become freeholders, they will have no charges againſt the ſtate nor the ſtate againſt them. There has been a great deal ſaid on this ſubject, perhaps more than was neceſſary, and I ſhall conclude with a wiſh to do equal juſtice to all.

Mr. Robinſon obſerved, that a part of the public creditors ought not to have a preference to the reſt, by coming and receiving immediately the whole ſum due them. If there were funds for the redemption of a part of the public debt, they ought to be after the manner of a dividend; for if the farmer is allowed to pay his debt to the ſtate in certificates, will not the merchant expect the ſame for his impoſt, and the retailer for his exciſe? will not all ranks of citizens claim the ſame privilege? certainly they will. Seeing the ſtate cannot diſcharge the whole, we muſt neceſſarily leave the funds to their original intention.

Mr. G. Clymer pointed out how ruinous it would be to ſtrike at that fund, when it had been originally pledged; it was ſuppoſed, to bring in yearly 70 or 80,000l. this had never produced ſo much; in the

present year not 14,000l. When the committee of ways and means find how difficult, and how much beyond their skill, it is to raise money by direct taxation, they must turn somewhere else.

Mr. Wynkoop had weighed, with the most serious attention, the arguments offered on this occasion: he had not unfortunately considered it so thoroughly before, when he joined in bringing in the report, and was now convinced that it would be not only a breach of public faith to adopt it, but that its consequences would also be ruinous to the state: he should therefore vote against it.

Mr. Brackenridge (who had also been a member of the committee) declared he had been very doubtful as to the probable consequences of the measure---but had been desirous of hearing information on the subject---for which reason he had concurred in bringing it before the house. It had been ably argued, and he had been at some difficulty to make up his mind; but from what had been remarked he was against the measure. He thought, if adopted, it would be injurious to the interest of the people in the western country---and for this reason---the value of the certificates would rise in proportion to the demand for them---and the demand in proportion to the number of persons who came to market. At present only those come, who took out warrants in the late or old purchase of 1768. Many of those were settlers who had no title to lands, and lay at the mercy of those who chose to apply. The principal part of those who might wish to patent on old titles were below the mountains. Vast sums were due by them. If that floodgate were opened; certificates would in a short time be as difficult to be procured as state money, and perhaps as gold and silver.

It was extremely difficult for people in his part of the country to obtain money enough to pay for certificates, to warrant the land they had a right to by occupancy, and as this measure would tend to raise them still higher, and so make it more difficult, he was opposed to it. Again, it would not only give to the speculation hinted at by a worthy member from the city (Mr. Morris) but would greatly encrease for a time the value of certificates, which he was directly opposed to. Enough had been done already for them, funds were provided for their final discharge, and the interest in the mean time secured them, and as he would do nothing to depreciate them, so he would refrain from doing any thing to appreciate them. He remarked upon the fortunes acquired by speculators, men void of honesty and principles, by getting measures of this kind adopted. For tho' it was said out to relieve those who owed arrearages to the state, it would not do it so greatly as was expected. These certificates would rise in their value, and the poor farmer, instead of getting them of the brokers for two and six-pence, or five shillings in the pound, would be obliged to give ten or fifteen shillings.

If the value of certificates was raised, the price of the lands for which the late office was opened should be reduced. For the proportion between the price set upon the land and the value of the certificates, would be otherwise taken away. He thought it was neither safe nor expedient to do any thing that should raise their value suddenly.

In the western country, the titles under the proprietary office, are all secure, being commenced, tho' not completed. He wished to favor those who had been driven from their habitations, and were not able to procure warrants for their lands. He was against raising the price of certificates to them.

This had been injudiciously done by the funding law, of which as a private citizen, he heartily disapproved.

He was in favor of allowing a further time to take out warrants.

Mr. Morris said, he would not detain the house long: he should always set that gentleman (Mr. Whitehill) right when he chose to quote him, if his words were misstated, as had been done to day. (He here pointed out the particular phrase, but not understanding it we have omitted it: he went on.) He expressed his surprise that a gentleman of my knowledge of law, should expect to make a distinction between those who are able and unable to pay; I do not deserve the compliment he has paid me, for I have very little, if any knowledge of that profession; I only wish for enough to get and keep myself clear of it, and I assure the gentleman I should be very happy in possessing that much. But if it is possible to make such a discrimination, I presume the gentleman himself would be for adopting it---if otherwise, I am sure I shall give it up. The tendency of the arguments used for the adoption of this measure, "that every person who holds an evidence of a debt due him from the state should pay it for debts he owes to the state," may be carried too far, for do they think if they apply in this case they will not apply in every other? Every man who is called upon may say, you owe me, and I will not pay you until the debt due me is first discharged. If the collector has a claim upon me to discharge the impost and duties on goods, which I have imported, don't I answer him with, take one debt for the other, and so obtain the payment of my own; and all others who were to be paid their interest out of this fund, must go unpaid to serve me. What shall the excise officer say to those to whom that particular fund is pledged?

These are the consequences of adopting the report before you.

Mr. Whitehill said a few words in reply, that this measure would absorb much of the principal debt and lessen the yearly interest now to be paid, which would in a great measure reduce the present taxes.

Mr. Findley took notice of some sentiments expressed by Mr. Brackenridge, that the certificates ought to be stationary: this he said was impossible, for they would continue to rise and fall. He repeated a few of his former arguments, and concluded with a saying the house the measure proposed tended much to promote the happiness and ease of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Brackenridge corrected Mr. Findley's mistake relative to saying certificates should be stationary: he did not say so; it was only, he would do nothing to raise or depress their value: this effect he did not see when he was in the committee. He pointed out other uses for the surplus of this fund, after the debt it was pledged for should be cancelled.

The question on the report was at length put, when there appeared,

For the report, 25
Against it, 32

Mr. Morris then moved that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for the better securing and more speedy collecting of the arrearages of purchase money on lands taken up before the tenth of December 1776: whereupon Messrs. Fitzsimons, Brackenridge and Findley were appointed.

The SUBSCRIBER.

NUMBER IX.

GAMING.

THE prevalence and daily increase of vice and immorality of every kind among us, are too evident to escape the notice of the most superficial observer, and if not speedily checked will bring upon us a ruinous train of evils. Good men foreseeing the consequences, have long trembled under fearful apprehensions of them, and even those who have been actuated by no higher motives than a bare regard to political good, have wished for a reformation; but though both are convinced of the necessity of a reformation, yet little has been done to promote it.

By the consequences naturally resulting from the extensive influence of luxury, every state is certainly led to destruction. By luxury the bodies, by luxury too, the minds of the people are emasculated and debilitated; no people were ever at the same time luxurious and industrious.

To what a height this contagious distemper is arrived, and to what a degree it hath spread itself thro' America, is but too visible. Every village which has the least pretensions to gentility, has its assembly; every tradesman must have his fine horse, his club parties, and his card parties. Singing, dancing, filling and gaming, are now no longer mere amusements, they are ranked among the important occupations of the day, among the principal duties of human beings.

In short, gaming and luxury is arrived to such a pitch, and become so universal, that we may, with great propriety, be called a nation of gamesters. Is not every dispute decided by a bet? Is there any thing too little or too large, too serious or too ridiculous for a wager? America is game mad; thousands of my good countrymen seem to be quite out of their senses.

A continual round of amusements and entertainments are invented day after day; and by this means, the mind is kept in a constant hurry and dissipation, and rendered unfit for any serious employment. Can parents of this turn, immersed in vanity and folly, be supposed capable of any domestic concerns? What a prospect is here of the morals of the rising age! and what is worse, this love of pleasure is carried into the country, and a general dissolution spreads itself thro' the whole. Hence it is, that country gentlemen of small fortunes, crowd to the diversions of the towns; contracting an expensive taste, and ruining their families. Nor is this love of pleasure confined only to genteel life; the common people follow the example of those above them; and as they have no fund to support them without labour, the consequences of idleness and extravagance in them, is immediate poverty; which necessarily throws them into gaming, sharping, robbery and all kinds of dishonesty.

Wonderful are the changes which difference of times create! A few years since a gamester was the most despicable character in life---now whose society more coveted than people of that profession! All who had any reputation to lose, or desired to be thought well of by their neighbours, took care, whenever they indulged themselves in that diversion, to do it with as much privacy as possible. But now, not to love play is to be unpolite. Persons who are observed to have superior skill in play are complimented with the title of great connoisseurs, applauded for their understanding in all the niceties of the game; and that is looked upon as the most useful kind of learning which teaches how to circumvent an adversary at the important business of whist.

The vice of gaming, originally descended from the worst of passions, is certainly the most pernicious of any to society. How great a misfortune is it therefore that it should become the mode, and, by being encouraged by persons of figure and condition, render the lower class of people (who are always fond of imitating their superiors) ambitious, as it were, of being undone in such good company.

We may date this extravagant itch of gaming, which, like the plague, has spread its contagion thro' all degrees of people, from the fatal year 1720. The alluring prospect of making a great fortune at once, and without any labour or trouble, so infatuated the minds of all the ambitious, avaricious and indolent, that for a time there seemed, in England, an entire stagnation of business, but what was transacted by gamesters and brokers. Then it was that sharping began to flourish in that nation. New modes of ruin was every day invented. From thence it was exported to America with other British commodities, and ever since continues here under various shapes.

Thus it was that converting gaming from an amusement into a business, it being the only matter now remaining, out of which their so much beloved castles in the air could be formed: one night's good run at cards; a sure stroke at the ball, make a cannon and hole him, or a lucky cast of the dice, would repair all that had been lost: and every one thought it worth his while to stake his last remains.

There are always a set of artful people, who watch to take advantage of any public frenzy. These soon discovered the general bent, and, to humour it with novelty, contrived various kinds of gaming, which never had been dreamed of; by which every one, if it so happened, might arrive at the end of his desires. Numbers, by this stratagem, were taken in.

Some diversion is necessary; but might not a more noble diversion be struck out, than gaming for large sums of money, and fomenting that selfishness which is already but too predominant? besides, can a stated sitting, without any other conversation than what arises from spotted paper, be called an amusement. This way of killing time brought into vogue, far from being a relaxation, is a serious business. Regardless of all the natural pleasures which surround us, we eagerly sit down, shuffling and dealing cards around till midnight, and sometimes all night, amidst a tumult of fluctuating passions; a phrenzy, which fixing us perpetually in a chair, brings on us all the evils consequent to the want of exercise.

And certain it is, that the hours pass away, when at play, without any improvement, or rational delight; and that all conversation is suspended amongst them, except the repetition of a few gambling phrases, and poignant altercations

Whilst I explode a too constant attention to play, I would not be understood to condemn a social party at cards or billiards for a few hours, to relax the mind, and give it time to recover its necessary vigour, to pursue more laudable studies or actions. The passion of gaming, takes root only in people who are void of thought and reflection.

The practice of playing at games of chance and skill, is not simply and in itself absolutely unlawful. Reason does not disapprove it, as far as it is consistent with the rules of honor and as far it contributes either to the relaxation of our own minds, or to the obliging and diverting our friends. But then every virtuous person should be careful not to abuse this liberty; not to yield himself so much to his diversions and recreations, as to suffer them to divert the attention of his mind from a steady adherence to the important business of his life; not to play for such high stakes as, if he loses, will either discompose his mind, or injure his family or estate.

Cards, or any other game, is an innocent and agreeable amusement. But in the present age, these rules are little observed by the generality of our gentry, who should be the great examples and encouragers of all virtue and industry: as well as by the trading part of America, who vainly attempt, by luxury and dissipation, to rival those of higher rank in the least amiable part of their characters. Health, fortune, reputation, serenity of mind, and every thing valuable in life, are sacrificed to the love of play. Whole nights and days are spent; and such large sums ventured and lost, as often reduce families, in a flourishing condition, to the greatest misery and distress.

What a shame and disgrace is it for a rational creature thus to live idly and unprofitably, to consume his time and to abuse his talents, in employing them to no better use than the constant and despicable business of striking or throwing a piece of ivory, or handling a set of painted baubles.

preſent year not 14,000l. When the committee of ways and means find how difficult, and how much beyond their skill, it is to raiſe money by direct taxation, they muſt turn ſomewhere elſe.

Mr. Wynkoop had weighed, with the moſt ſerious attention, the arguments offered on this occaſion: he had not conſidered it ſo thoroughly before, when he joined in bringing in the report, and was now convinced that it would be not only a breach of public faith to adopt it, but that its conſequences would alſo be ruinous to the ſtate: he ſhould therefore vote againſt it.

Mr. Brackenridge (who had alſo been a member of the committee) declared he had been very doubtful as to the probable conſequences of the meaſure---but had been deſirous of hearing information on the ſubject---for which reaſon he had concurred in bringing it before the houſe. It had been ably argued, and he had been at ſome difficulty to make up his mind; but from what had been remarked he was againſt the meaſure. He thought, if adopted, it would be injurious to the intereſt of the people in the weſtern country---and for this reaſon---the value of the certificates would riſe in proportion to the demand for them---and the demand in proportion to the number of perſons who came to market. At preſent only thoſe come, who took out warrants in the late or old purchaſe of 1768. Many of thoſe were ſettlers who had no title to lands, and lay at the mercy of thoſe who choſe to apply. The principal part of thoſe who might wiſh to patent on old titles were below the mountains. Vaſt ſums were due by them. If that floodgate were opened; certificates would in a ſhort time be as difficult to be procured as ſtate money, and perhaps as gold and ſilver.

It was extremely difficult for people in his part of the country to obtain money enough to pay for certificates, to warrant the land they had a right to by occupancy, and as this meaſure would tend to raiſe them ſtill higher, and ſo make it more difficult, he was oppoſed to it. Again, it would not only give to the ſpeculation hinted at by a worthy member from the city (Mr. Morris) but would greatly encreaſe for a time the value of certificates, which he was directly oppoſed to. Enough had been done already for them, funds were provided for their final diſcharge, and the intereſt in the mean time ſecured them, and as he would do nothing to depreciate them, ſo he would refrain from doing any thing to appreciate them. He remarked upon the fortunes acquired by ſpeculators, men void of honeſty and principles, by getting meaſures of this kind adopted. For tho' it was neid out to relieve thoſe who owed arrearages to the ſtate, it would not do it ſo greatly as was expected. Theſe certificates would riſe in their value, and the poor farmer, inſtead of getting them of the brokers for two and ſix-pence, or five ſhillings in the pound, would be obliged to give ten or fifteen ſhillings.

If the value of certificates was raiſed, the price of the lands for which the late office was opened ſhould be reduced. For the proportion between the price ſet upon the land and the value of the certificates, would be otherwiſe taken away. He thought it was neither ſafe nor expedient to do any thing that ſhould raiſe their value ſuddenly.

In the weſtern country, the titles under the proprietary office, are all ſecure, being commenced, tho' not completed. He wiſhed to favor thoſe who had been driven from their habitations, and were not able to procure warrants for their lands. He was againſt raiſing the price of certificates to them.

This had been injudiciouſly done by the funding law, of which as a private citizen, he heartily diſapproved.

He was in favor of allowing a further time to take out warrants.

Mr. Morris ſaid, he would not detain the houſe long: he ſhould always ſet that gentleman (Mr. Whitehill) right when he choſe to quote him, if his words were miſtated, as had been done to day. (He here pointed out the particular phraſe, but not underſtanding it we have omitted it: he went on.) He expreſſed his ſurpriſe that a gentleman of my knowledge of law, ſhould expect to make a diſtinction between thoſe who are able and unable to pay; I do not deſerve the compliment he has paid me, for I have very little, if any knowledge of that profeſſion; I only wiſh for enough to get and keep myſelf clear of it, and I aſſure the gentleman I ſhould be very happy in poſſeſſing that much. But if it is poſſible to make ſuch a diſcrimination, I preſume the gentleman himſelf would be for adopting it---if otherwiſe, I am ſure I ſhall give it up. The tendency of the arguments uſed for the adoption of this meaſure, "that every perſon who holds an evidence of a debt due him from the ſtate ſhould pay it for debts he owes to the ſtate," may be carried too far, for do they think if they apply in this caſe they will not apply in every other? Every man who is called upon may ſay, you owe me, and I will not pay you until the debt due me is firſt diſcharged. If the collector has a claim upon me to diſcharge the impoſt and duties on goods, which I have imported, don't I anſwer him with, take one debt for the other, and ſo obtain the payment of my own; and all others who were to be paid their intereſt out of this fund, muſt go unpaid to ſerve me. What ſhall the excize officer ſay to thoſe to whom that particular fund is pledged?

Theſe are the conſequences of adopting the report before you.

Mr. Whitehill ſaid a few words in reply, that this meaſure would abſorb much of the principal debt and leſſen the yearly intereſt now to be paid, which would in a great meaſure reduce the preſent taxes.

Mr. Findley took notice of ſome ſentiments expreſſed by Mr. Brackenridge, that the certificates ought to be ſtationary: this he ſaid was impoſſible, for they would continue to riſe and fall. He repeated a few of his former arguments, and concluded with a ſtating the houſe the meaſure propoſed tended much to promote the happineſs and eaſe of Pennſylvania.

Mr. Brackenridge corrected Mr. Findley's miſtake relative to ſaying certificates ſhould be ſtationary: he did not ſay ſo; it was only, he would do nothing to raiſe or depreſs their value: this effect he did not ſee when he was in the committee. He pointed out other uſes for the ſurplus of this fund, after the debt it was pledged for ſhould be cancelled.

The queſtion on the report was at length put, when there appeared,

For the report, 25
Againſt it, 32

Mr. Morris then moved that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for the better ſecuring and more ſpeedy collecting of the arrearages of purchaſe money on lands taken up before the tenth of December 1776: whereupon Meſſrs. Fitzſimons, Brackenridge and Findley were appointed.

The SUBSCRIBER.

NUMBER IX.

GAMING.

THE prevalence and daily increaſe of vice and immorality of every kind among us, are too evident to eſcape the notice of the moſt ſuperficial obſerver, and if not ſpeedily checked will bring upon us a ruinous train of evils. Good men foreſeeing the conſequences, have long trembled under fearful apprehenſions of them, and even thoſe who have been actuated by no higher motives than a bare regard to political good, have wiſhed for a reformation; but though both are convinced of the neceſſity of a reformation, yet little has been done to promote it.

By the conſequences naturally reſulting from the extenſive influence of luxury, every ſtate is certainly led to deſtruction. By luxury the bodies, by luxury too, the minds of the people are emaculated and debilitated; no people were ever at the ſame time luxurious and induſtrious.

To what a height this contagious diſtemper is arrived, and to what a degree it hath ſpread itſelf thro' America, is but too viſible. Every village which has the leaſt pretenſions to gentility, has its aſſembly; every tradeſman muſt have his fine horſe, his club parties, and his card parties. Singing, dancing, filling and gaming, are now no longer mere amuſements, they are ranked among the important occupations of the day, among the principal duties of human beings.

In ſhort, gaming and luxury is arrived to ſuch a pitch, and become ſo univerſal, that we may, with great propriety, be called a nation of gameſters. Is not every diſpute decided by a bet? Is there any thing too little or too large, too ſerious or too ridiculous for a wager? America is game mad; thouſands of my good countrymen ſeem to be quite out of their ſenſes.

A continual round of amuſements and entertainments are invented day after day; and by this means, the mind is kept in a conſtant hurry and diſſipation, and rendered unfit for any ſerious employment. Can parents of this turn, immerſed in vanity and folly, be ſuppoſed capable of any domeſtic concerns? What a proſpect is here of the morals of the riſing age! and what is worſe, this love of pleaſure is carried into the country, and a general diſſolution ſpreads itſelf thro' the whole. Hence it is, that country gentlemen of ſmall fortunes, crowd to the diverſions of the towns; contracting an expenſive taſte, and ruining their families. Nor is this love of pleaſure confined only to genteel life: the common people follow the example of thoſe above them; and as they have no fund to ſupport them without labour, the conſequences of idleneſs and extravagance in them, is immediate poverty; which neceſſarily throws them into gaming, ſharping, robbery and all kinds of diſhoneſty.

Wonderful are the changes which difference of times create! A few years ſince a gameſter was the moſt deſpicable character in life---now whoſe ſociety more coveted than people of that profeſſion! All who had any reputation to loſe, or deſired to be thought well of by their neighbours, took care, whenever they indulged themſelves in that diverſion, to do it with as much privacy as poſſible. But now, not to love play is to be unpolite. Perſons who are obſerved to have ſuperior ſkill in play are complimented with the title of great connoiſſeurs, applauded for their underſtanding in all the niceties of the game; and that is looked upon as the moſt uſeful kind of learning which teaches how to circumvent an adverſary at the important buſineſs of whiſt.

The vice of gaming, originally deſcended from the worſt of paſſions, is certainly the moſt pernicious of any to ſociety. How great a misfortune is it therefore that it ſhould become the mode, and, by being encouraged by perſons of figure and condition, render the lower claſs of people (who are always fond of imitating their ſuperiors) ambitious, as it were, of being undone in ſuch good company.

We may date this extravagant itch of gaming, which, like the plague, has ſpread its contagion thro' all degrees of people, from the fatal year 1720. The alluring proſpect of making a great fortune at once, and without any labour or trouble, ſo infatuated the minds of all the ambitious, avaricious and indolent, that for a time there ſeemed, in England, an entire ſtagnation of buſineſs, but what was tranſacted by gameſters and brokers. Then it was that ſharping began to flouriſh in that nation. New modes of ruin was every day invented. From thence it was exported to America with other Britiſh commodities, and ever ſince continues here under various ſhapes.

Thus it was that converting gaming from an amuſement into a buſineſs, it being the only matter now remaining, out of which their ſo much beloved caſtles in the air could be formed: one night's good run at cards; a ſure ſtroke at the ball, make a cannon and hole him, or a lucky caſt of the dice, would repair all that had been loſt; and every one thought it worth his while to ſtake his laſt remains.

There are always a ſet of artful people, who watch to take advantage of any public frenzy. Theſe ſoon diſcovered the general bent, and, to humour it with novelty, contrived various kinds of gaming, which never had been dreamed of; by which every one, if it ſo happened, might arrive at the end of his deſires. Numbers, by this ſtratagem, were taken in.

Some diverſion is neceſſary; but might not a more noble diverſion be ſtruck out, than gaming for large ſums of money, and fomenting that ſelfiſhneſs which is already but too predominant? beſides, can a ſtated ſitting, without any other converſation than what ariſes from ſpotted paper, be called an amuſement. This way of killing time brought into vogue, far from being a relaxation, is a ſerious buſineſs. Regardleſs of all the natural pleaſures which ſurround us, we eagerly ſit down, ſhuffling and dealing cards around till midnight, and ſometimes all night, amidſt a tumult of fluctuating paſſions; a phrenzy, which fixing us perpetually in a chair, brings on us all the evils conſequent to the want of exerciſe.

And certain it is, that the hours paſs away, when at play, without any improvement, or rational delight; and that all converſation is ſuſpended amongſt them, except the repetition of a few gambling phraſes, and poignant altercations

Whilſt I explode a too conſtant attention to play, I would not be underſtood to condemn a ſocial party at cards or billiards for a few hours, to relax the mind, and give it time to recover its neceſſary vigour, to purſue more laudable ſtudies or actions. The paſſion of gaming, takes root only in people who are void of thought and reflection.

The practice of playing at games of chance and ſkill, is not ſimply and in itſelf abſolutely unlawful. Reaſon does not diſapprove it, as far as it is conſiſtent with the rules of honor and as far it contributes either to the relaxation of our own minds, or to the obliging and diverting our friends. But then every virtuous perſon ſhould be careful not to abuſe this liberty; not to yield himſelf ſo much to his diverſions and recreations, as to ſuffer them to divert the attention of his mind from a ſteady adherence to the important buſineſs of his life; not to play for ſuch high ſtakes as, if he loſes, will either diſcompoſe his mind, or injure his family or eſtate.

Cards, or any other game, is an innocent and agreeable amuſement. But in the preſent age, theſe rules are little obſerved by the generality of our gentry, who ſhould be the great examples and encouragers of all virtue and induſtry: as well as by the trading part of America, who vainly attempt, by luxury and diſſipation, to rival thoſe of higher rank in the leaſt amiable part of their characters. Health, fortune, reputation, ſerenity of mind, and every thing valuable in life, are ſacrificed to the love of play. Whole nights and days are ſpent; and ſuch large ſums ventured and loſt, as often reduce families, in a flouriſhing condition, to the greateſt miſery and diſtreſs.

What a ſhame and diſgrace is it for a rational creature thus to live idly and unprofitably, to conſume his time and to abuſe his talents, in employing them to no better uſe than the conſtant and deſpicable buſineſs of ſtriking or throwing a piece of ivory, or handling a ſet of painted baubles.

But well would it be if this was the worſt conſequences attending immoderate play. The modern gaming table is the ſcene where all kinds of theſts and cheats are practiſed; and where lies, oaths and the moſt bitter and opprobrious expreſſions are vented, which often deſtroy the moſt ſacred bonds of friendſhip, and produce in their ſtead, envy, diſſimulation, malice and revenge---Candor obliges me to hope that gaming and luxury will never be carried to ſuch deſperate lengths in Pittſburgh.

Mr. Subſcriber,

I Have long gaped over your weekly performances for an eſſay on women---it is a pretty ſubject, and I doubt not your capacity to handle it. Perhaps the reaſon why you have ſo long neglected them is, that they have played you as many tricks as they have me ---if that is the caſe, you may be pardoned for what is paſt---but do not paſs them over for the future---I love them, tho' I have reaſon to believe they do not love me---they have jilted, ridiculed, laughed at, and played the devil with me ten thouſand times---ſtill I love them. If you praiſe them, it will put me in mind of my preſent miſtreſs, who, to me appears an angel---If you abuſe them, I ſhall think of ſome of my former miſtreſſes, who have jilted me.

An Old Batchelor.

Pittſburgh, February 3.

The ſuperintendant of Indian affairs has the pleaſure to inform the public, that he, on the 31ſt ult. had a conference with a chief of the Six Nations (whoſe veracity he thinks may be depended on) by whom he is informed, that in conſequence of the ſpeeches of Congreſs laſt ſummer, a deputation from the Six Nations were ſent laſt fall to the weſterly and northweſterly tribes of Indians within the United States territory, deſiring them to behave themſelves peaceably towards the United States---That a part of this deputation are ſtill amongſt the nations mentioned, on that buſineſs, and that he thinks nothing prejudicial to the citizens of the United States is to be apprehended from any of the Indian nations, in conſequence of the late conferences held amongſt themſelves, and that it is their further intention to depend upon their own councils, and not to follow the advice of a people who have ſo long led them aſtray.

This account comes directly to this chief from one of the principals of the Six Nations, who attended the Sanduſky council.

On Saturday laſt, the geographer of the United States returned here from ſuperintending the buſineſs of his department in the weſtern territory. From him we learn, that the firſt, ſecond, third, and fourth ranges are completely ſurveyed into townſhips. And that the information given by a certain gentleman, reſpecting ſeven townſhips of the fifth range being ſurveyed, which we publiſhed in our paper of the 25th of November laſt, was premature.

Poverty (obſerves a correſpondent) is an evil always in our view; an evil complicated with many circumſtances of uneaſineſs and vexation, and very few have been ſtudious to avoid it. Nature makes us poor, only when we want neceſſaries, but cuſtom has given the name of poverty to the want of ſuperfluities. To be idle and to be poor have always been reproaches, and therefore every man endeavours, with his utmoſt care, to hide his poverty from others, and his idleneſs from himſelf. Simply to be poor was not held ſcandalous by the wiſe Athenians, but highly ſo to owe that poverty to our own indiſcretion. I cannot help reflecting on the many that have reduced themſelves and families into neceſſitous circumſtances by their extravagancies, and how eaſily might their ſituations have been obviated by being frugal.

Frugality may be termed the daughter of prudence, the ſiſter of temperance and the parent of liberty.---He that is extravagant, will quickly become poor, and poverty will enforce dependance, and invite corruption. It will almoſt always produce a paſſive compliance with the wickedneſs of others, and there are few who do not learn by degrees to practiſe thoſe crimes which they ceaſe to cenſure.

Without frugality none can be rich, and with it, very few would be poor.

Though in every age there are ſome who, by bold adventures, or by favorable accidents, riſe ſuddenly into riches; the bulk of mankind muſt owe their affluence to ſmall and gradual profits, below which their expence muſt be reſolutely reduced.

The mercantile wiſdom of "a penny ſaved is two-pence got" may be accommodated to all conditions, by obſerving, that not only they who purſue any lucrative employment will ſave time when they forbear expence, and that time may be employed to the increaſe of profit; but that they, who are above ſuch minute conſiderations, will find by every victory over appetite or paſſions, new ſtrength added to the mind, will gain the power of refuſing thoſe ſolicitations by which the young and vivacious are hourly aſſaulted, and in time, ſet themſelves above the reach of extravagance and folly.

It may, perhaps, be enquired, by thoſe who are willing rather to cavil than learn, what is the juſt meaſure of frugality? To ſuch no general anſwer can be given, ſince the liberty of ſpending, or neceſſity of parſimony, may be varied without end by different circumſtances. Theſe three rules, however, may be laid down as not to be departed from.

"A man's voluntary expences ſhould not exceed his income.

"Let no man anticipate uncertain profits.

"Let no man ſquander againſt his inclination."

To the PRINTERS of the PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

Meſſieurs SCULL & BOYD,

IN your Gazette of the 13th January, appeared a bill, publiſhed for conſideration, entitled an act for erecting part of the counties of Weſtmoreland and Waſhington into a ſeparate county. It could be wiſhed the bill had given more general ſatisfaction: the people have at laſt opened their eyes, and beheld the neceſſity of erecting a ſeat of juſtice at Pittſburgh. On this point they ſeem to be unanimous, but numbers complain of the ſcanty plan laid down by the framers of the bill. It would have given more general ſatisfaction, had it been laid down on a larger ſcale, viz. Beginning on the Ohio at the mouth of Racoon, thence up the middle of ſaid creek to the forks, thence in a direct line to the head of Robertſon's run, thence in a direct line to Armſtrong's mill, thence in a direct line to the head of the weſterly branch of Peter's creek, thence down the middle of ſaid creek to its mouth on the Monongahela, thence up the middle of ſaid river to the Fayette line, thence in a direct line to Bud's ferry on the Youghiogany river, thence down the middle of ſaid river to the mouth of Sawickly creek, thence in a direct line to the head of Turtle creek, thence in a direct line to the head of Plumb creek, thence as pointed out in the bill to the Ohio river, and down the ſame to the place of beginning.

The above deſcribed boundaries would give more importance to the new county in its infant ſtate, and appears to be the moſt natural diviſion. It encircles a tract of land, though not extenſive, yet exceedingly fertile, and need not be under obligations to any country or climate under the ſun, either for the neceſſaries or luxuries of life, if duly cultivated. Pittſburgh, the capital of the weſtern country, ſeems intended by nature for a public good, being ſituated in the moſt advantageous manner at the confluence of two rivers that glide through a very extenſive and luxurious ſoil. At the ſame time the farmer is obliged to attend the courts of juſtice he can carry his produce to market at an eaſy expence, being favored by the rivers between which the town is ſituated; the farmer is obliged often to attend court, let him have buſineſs of a private nature or not; in many parts of the country he finds much difficulty in defraying his expences, there being no market at ſuch place for his produce: upon this account he is obliged in the firſt place to go to Pittſburgh with his produce, before he can attempt going to court, in order that he may be able to ſatisfy the avarice of the lawyer and the greed of the tavern keeper; and this, by the bye, is no ſmall matter, beſides it is attended with much difficulty; and the complaint can only be removed by fixing a ſeat of public juſtice at Pittſburgh, where the farmer, to uſe an old proverb, can kill two birds with one ſtone. Provided he has no money in his purſe, he can bring beef, pork, cheeſe, butter, tallow, cloth, &c. &c. theſe will always be ſufficient to defray his expence, and if he cannot get caſh for them, let him barter with the tavern keeper, or in many caſes they may even ſatisfy for a retaining fee.

A FRIEND to the PUBLIC.

The following piece was handed to us a few days ago by the gentleman who has ſubſcribed it, with ſo earneſt a requeſt to publiſh it ſpeedily that we could not refuſe to gratify both him and the public, without thinking ourſelves guilty of diſreſpect to a gentleman ſo HIGH in the commiſſion of the peace. We have taken the liberty to make ſome trifling corrections: ſhould any errors ſtill remain, they muſt fall to the ſhare of the author, not the printers.

Mr. Farmer,

I Read your advertiſement of the twentieth of January laſt to which I am ſurpriſed that you dare write without my licence or authority as high conſtable of Weſtmoreland county---and in particular againſt the ſtates or ſtateſman whom is choſen by the voice of the free citizens of this county. Laying in your charge that our repreſentative has ſold the intereſts of the county for a damn'd ſtockholders dinner of fat beef Not allowing a pint of ſmall beer to waſh it down I ſuppoſe that you are a jobbing broker too---a poor indented ſervant is allowed in the articles of his indenture meat drink waſhing and lodging---My good farmer I am ſorry that you did not affix your name to the bottom of your advertiſement then I would mark you with the grace of God that the ſun would never melt or raiſe ſuch a duſt that would not be eaſy laid---my good farmer ſow not the ſeed of contimpleſion or malice, and let ſtate affairs alone---mind your trade and I will mind my trade too that is hold the plough faſt and I will hold my conſtables ſtaff and next harveſt we will both have a good crop.

My good Farmer if I can find you out I will gag you with my conſtable ſtaff and lock your mouth with Don Paderos padlock that he keeps to lock his wife's cloſet as I am high conſtable of this county and mentioned in my commiſſion to over ſee and mend the high ways I will keep you in order and mend your ways too---Let me never hear you write againſt the civil officers of this town or ſtate or fiſh in troubled waters or you will ſurely ſink to the bottom where you will never riſe until the day of judgment.

JAMES CHAMBERS, High Conſtable.

Pittſburgh, January 3, 1787.

WHEREAS I have purchaſed a tract of land of Francis Rennoe, of Waſhington county, and gave him my bond for 130l. between 40 and 50l. of which is ſtill unpaid, and whereas it appears that ſaid Rennoe cannot make me a ſufficient title to ſaid land, (another perſon having an office right for the ſame) this is to notify all perſons not to take an aſſignment of the ſaid bond, as I am determined not to pay the money, until ſaid Rennoe adopts ſome meaſure of ſecuring to me the property purchaſed.

JOHN NEVILL

Waſhington county, Jan. 29, 1787.

Pittſburgh, February 3, 1787.

ON Tueſday next will be opened at the houſe of Mr. A Fowler, in Market-ſtreet, a quantity of ſpirits, brandy, wine, porter, Taunton ale, ſugars, chocolate, raiſins, a handſome aſſortment of glaſs ware, ladies ſhoes, &c. To which will ſhortly be added, teas, and a number of other articles, all which will be ſold for caſh, on the loweſt terms, by

G. FOWLER & E. BUTLER.

N.B. Families in town or elſewhere, who can with certainty pay off their accounts in the firſt week in April next, may be indulged with opening accounts until that time.

WHEREAS a certain John Emerſon has lately entered up for public ſale by the ſheriff of Weſtmoreland county, for the payment of his debts, a tract of land conſiſting of about 200 acres, ſituated in Huntington townſhip, about one half mile from the town of Port Royal, on which Samuel M'Clure formerly lived, and which is now in my poſſeſſion---I hereby caution every perſon againſt purchaſing ſaid land, if it ſhould be offered for ſale, as I have an indiſputable title for it.

JOSEPH L. FINLEY.

Port Royal, Jan. 24, 1787.

THE Office of the Recorder of Deeds, &c. is removed from Colonel Nehemiah Stokely's to Greenſburgh, where the buſineſs is done by

BENJAMIN NEILLY,

for James Hamilton, Eſq: Recorder.

THE ſubſcribers being appointed wood rangers for Weſtmoreland county, by the worſhipful bench of ſaid county, inform all perſons who may take up any ſtray horſes, cows, ſheep, hogs, &c. immediately to enter them with us at Greenſburgh, or they will be dealt with according to law.

CHRISTOPHER TRUBY,
JAMES GUTHRIE.

Greenſburgh, Jan. 29, 1787.

THIS is to inform all perſons who have unſettled accounts, or other demands againſt the eſtate of the late Matthew Hayes, deceaſed, to bring them in for ſettlement, at or before the firſt day of March next, to the ſubſcriber, who has taken out letters of adminiſtration. Alſo, all thoſe who are indebted by notes of hand, or otherwiſe, for goods bought at the vendue of the effects of the deceaſed, are deſired to make payment againſt the date aforeſaid, otherwiſe the ſubſcriber will be under the neceſſity of putting their accounts into the hands of an attorney.

MARY HAYS.

THE Partnerſhip of FREEMAN & SAVERIN being this day diſſolved, I hereby inform all perſons not to credit ſaid Saverin on my account, as I will pay no contracts of ſaid Saverin after this date.

WILLIAM FREEMAN.

Pittſburg, Jan. 19, 1787.

Meſſieurs SCULL & BOYD,

If you think the incloſed Poem worthy of a place in your paper, the inſertion of it in your next, will much oblige

A Well-wiſher to your Undertaking.

UPON Ohio's bank I muſing ſat
And mark'd with ſtedfaſt eye its tranquil tide,
Which deep, in eaſy curls copious flow'd,
And by th'evening ſun illum'd, refulgent
Shone---A field of fluid gold. O'er my head
The lofty trees majeſtic wav'd their tops,
And thro' their branches ſigh'd the ſouthern breeze.
Not diſtant far a rill, from off a rock
That croſs'd its bed, fell with a ſtilly noiſe,
Which waſted on the zephyr's balmy wing,
In gentle ſwellings, met my liſt'ning ear,
And huſh'd my reſtleſs thoughts into a calm,
Reclin'd I ſat. Upon my ſenſes crept
The drowſy power, who nightly rules this world,
And in his leaden fetters chain'd them faſt---
On the ſoft bank I ſunk. Still fancy dwelt
Upon the waking ſcene. And lo! methought,
Upburſting from the flood, the river God*
To my aſtoniſh'd viſion ſtood confeſt.
Grim, methought, he was and hedious glar'd
Like Indian warrior wild. A wreath
Of leaves of many a different tree entwin'd
With many a wild exotic plant and flower,
Circled his aged brows. Upon his head
A blazing creſant burn'd, juſt like the ſun
When peeping from the eaſt.---Half rais'd he ſtood---
His better hand a mighty trident grac'd,
Which mark'd him king of floods, and in his left
He held a golden horn. Wrath was the God---
The frighted river from his preſence ſhrunk,
And preſs'd upon its banks. Frowning he ſpoke,
And in low thunder, thus his accents broke.
" Shall vain imperious mortals dare to check
" The riſing glories of my wat'ry reign?
" Dare man contend, with Heav'n? why is it thus?
" Thro' ſuch extenſive ſpace I copious
" Pour my urn; why is it, thus my banks, or
" In rich plains extend, or ſwell in fertile hills---
" Let man look round upon my vaſt domains,
" See the variety of ſoils and climes
" Thro which my water roll. Let him but view
(" The firſt faint dawning of my glorious day)
" My peopled bank, § already crouded thick
" With men inur'd to arms. Proud of their ſtrength
" And jealous of their rights. Then let him pauſe----
" And judge if his weak law can bound my power,
" Can bar the intercourſe of half the world."
He ceas'd. His awful words the water, woods
And hills rebellow'd wide. Into the wave
He ſunk. The whirling wave cloſ'd o'er his head --
And I awoke. The ſhades of evening fell---
Already in the eaſt bright Heſperus ſhone,
To guide my homeward ſteps, and Cynthia trim'd
Her ſilver lamp, to light the weary way.

* In the following deſcription and ſpeech ſometimes the Miſſiſippi is alluded to. The Genius is ſuppoſed to be common to both.

§ The ſouth ſide of the Ohio is here meant.

The two TRADESMEN and the CLOWN.

TWO traders were proceeding on a pilgrimage. A countryman who was proſecuting the ſame journey, having joined them on the road, they agreed to travel together, and to make a joint ſtock of their proviſions. But when arrived within a day's journey of the holy place, it was almoſt wholly expended, ſo that they had nothing left but a little barley flour ſufficient to make a ſmall cake. The perfidious traders entered into a plot together to cheat their companion of his ſhare, and from his ſtupid air, imagined they could dupe him without difficulty. " We muſt come to ſome agreement," ſaid one of the citizens. " What will not aſſuage the hunger of three, may ſatisfy a ſingle perſon," and I vote that it be allotted to one of us only. But that each of us may have a fair chance, I propoſe that we all three lie down and fall aſleep; and that the bread may be the lot of him, who, on awaking, ſhall have had the moſt curious dream.

The other citizen, as we may readily ſuppoſe, approved vaſtly this ſuggeſtion. The countryman alſo ſignified his approbation, and pretended to give compleatly into the ſnare. They then made the bread, put it on the fire to bake, and laid down. But our tradeſmen were ſo much fatigued with their journey, that without intending it, they fell ſoon into a profound ſlumber. The clown more cunning, waited only this opportunity, got up without noiſe, went and ate the bread, and then compoſed himſelf to reſt.

Soon after one of the citizens awaked, and calling to his companions; " Friends," ſaid he, " liſten to my dream. I thought myſelf tranſported into hell. For a long time was kept ſuſpended over the abyſs of everlaſting fire. There I was a witneſs of the torments of the damned. " And I," ſaid the other, " dreamed that the gates of Heaven were opened to me. The arch-angels Michael and Gabriel, after raiſing me up into the ſky, carried me before the throne of God. There was I a ſpectator of his glory." And then the dreamer began to recount the wonders of Paradiſe, as the other had of the infernal abodes.

The countryman, mean while, though he heard perfectly what they ſaid, pretended to be ſtill aſleep. They went to rouſe him from his ſlumber; when he, affecting the ſurpriſe of a man ſuddenly diſturbed from reſt, cried out, " What is the matter?" Why it is only your fellow travellers. What! do you not recollect us? Come ariſe, and inform us of your dream." " My dream? Oh! I have had a very droll one, and one that I am ſure will afford you ſome diverſion.----- When I ſaw you both carried away, the one to Heaven, the other to Hell, I thought that I had loſt you for ever, I then got up, and as I expected never to ſee you more, I went and demoliſhed the loaf."

One [illegible]red Dollars Reward.

RAN-AWAY from the ſubſcriber, on the 11th of October laſt, an indented Iriſh ſervant Man, named JOHN BUCHANAN, about 28 years of age, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, black complexion, of a very effeminate appearance, ſhort black hair, ſpeaks with the brogue, is very pregnant with little artifice, and a notorious liar; had on a blue broadcloth coat, with yellow buttons, moleſkin jacket, black breeches, and a large cocked caſtor hat; took with him two horſes, one black, 15 and an half hands high, with a ſmall ſtar, his left hind foot white, marked on the right buttock U S, almoſt worn out; the other a bay; he carried a caſe of holſter piſtols and a fuſil; endeavoured to change the horſes in the Alleghany Mountain, on his way down the old Virginia road; he had then in company with him a young woman, whom he paſſed for his wife; he was bought of Jeremiah Warder, Parker & Co. in Philadelphia, on the 27th of May, 1784; ſays he was born in Cork, and is a glove-maker. As he had acceſs to a large ſtore in Pittſburgh, it appears that he has carried off a conſiderable ſum of mony and other valuable property; it is therefore expected that he may eſcape to Ireland, ſhould this be the caſe, the above reward ſhall be paid to any perſon that will have him apprehended, ſo that he may be brought to juſtice, and a reward of Forty Dollars ſhall be paid to any perſon that will have him taken up and ſecured in any workhouſe or priſon in the United States, ſo that his maſter may get him again, or that will deliver him to General Febiger, in Philadelphia; Walter Roe, in Baltimore; Michael M'Kewan, in Martinſburgh, Virginia, or the ſubſcriber in Pittſburgh, and all reaſonable charges.

Jan. 10, 1787. JAMES O'HARA.

DANIEL BRITT & Co. once more call on thoſe indebted to the late houſe of Craig, Bayard & Co. to come and ſettle their accounts, as they need not expect any further lenity.

Pittſburgh, Dec. 20, 1786.

DANIEL BRITT & CO.

Have for Sale, a General Aſſortment of

MERCHANDIZE,

WHICH will be Sold on reaſonable Terms for Caſh, Flour, Whiſky, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Corn, Aſhes, Candlewick, Tallow, &c &c.

Pittſburgh, July 28.

CERTIFICATES for the LAND-OFFICE

MAY *be had of the ſubſcriber, at his office in Market-ſtreet, between Fourth and Fifth ſtreets, nearly oppoſite the ſign of the Black Bear, where every perſon applying may be furniſhed with the exact ſum they may have occaſion for in the land-office, and their warrants carried through without any other charge than the fees of the different offices, by*

THOMAS FORREST.

Who buys and ſells all kinds of CERTIFICATES of this ſtate, or any of the United States.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1786.

CAME to the plantation of the ſubſcriber, on the firſt of December, 1786, a Dun MARE, four years old, a ſmall blaze in her forehead, both hind feet white, no brand or ear mark, a natural trotter. The owner is deſired to come, property, pay charges, and take her away.

MATTHEW M'CLARAN.

Weſtmoreland, Jan. 18, 1787.

AN OFFICE

For the Purchaſe and Sale of the various kinds of Continental and State Certificates. Alſo Houſes, Lots and Lands, by

MATTHEW M'CONNEL,

ON the eaſt ſide of Second ſtreet, between Market and Cheſnut ſtreets, ſeven doors below Black Horſe-alley, Philadelphia. Who furniſhes Certificates for the Land Office, and will carry the warrants through, clear of any commiſſion.

All applications and orders from perſons reſiding in any part of this, or of the United States, will be punctually attended to; whether to make purchaſes or ſales, payments in the land office, or to receive intereſt at the continental loan office or ſtate treaſury.

Juſt opened and to be ſold by the ſubſcriber living on the bank of the river, between Mr. David Duncan's and Mr. John Ormſby's.

A LARGE *and general aſſortment of DRY and WET GOODS, which he will diſpoſe of on the moſt reaſonable terms for caſh, country produce, peltry or ginſeng.* JOHN GIBSON.

THE ſubſcriber wiſhing to finiſh the buſineſs of JAMES O'HARA & Co. requeſts that all perſons indebted to that firm, will make the neceſſary payments before the firſt day of May next, as his ſituation obliges him to put every open account belonging to the company, on that day, into the hands of their attorney. He hopes that his friends and cuſtomers will acknowledge the diſtant period fixed upon for payment, ſufficiently generous, and that they will leave him no cauſe to exclaim or put them to any further trouble. Country produce of all kinds will be received at market prices: all thoſe who have any demands, are informed that the neceſſary arrangement is made for making immediate payments of all the charges that may be brought againſt them.

James O'Hara.

Pittſburgh, January 24, 1787.

JUST opening at the Store of the ſubſcriber in Pittſburgh, a complete cargo of Weſt-India Goods, of the firſt quality, and other Groceries, to which will be ſhortly added, a general aſſortment of Dry Goods, as uſual, all which will be ſold on the moſt reaſonable terms for caſh, or any kind of country produce, at market price.

James O'Hara.

January 24, 1787.

WHEREAS there has been tickets granted to a number of perſons, intitling ſuch perſons to a title for the therein mentioned lot or lots in the town of Waſhington, alias Baſſett Ville, in the county of Waſhington and ſtate of Pennſylvania, on condition, nevertheleſs, that there ſhould be erected on each lot, a houſe of eighteen feet ſquare at leaſt, with a ſtone or brick chimney therein, within the time limited in ſuch ticket. And whereas, the condition has not been complied with by a great majority of the holders of ſaid tickets, and yet they ceaſe not to impoſe on the unwary by tranſferring ſuch ideal titles, while the right has long ſince echeated to the proprietors.

We therefore (to prevent ſuch frauds for the future) have thought fit to give this public notice, and alſo to let all perſons know who may have claims to lots in ſaid town, that if they make application within two months from the date hereof, they ſhall have the preference on ſuch eaſy terms as will, upon application, be made known to them: but if they do not apply within the time aforeſaid, they ſhall ever after be precluded from any advantage intended them by the ſubſcribers.

JOHN HOGE.
WILLIAM HOGE.

N. B. Out lots for graſs, &c. adjoining ſaid town, will be furniſhed on low terms.

Waſhington, Jan. 24, 1787.

WHEREAS, I, the ſubſcriber, purchaſed a tract of land from Thomas Settles of Waſhington county, for which I have given him (along with others) a bond for the penalty of Three Hundred Pounds, dated on or about the ſeventh of November, 1786, for which I am now ſued by the ſaid Thomas Sellers. And whereas the ſaid Thomas, has not made me a perfect title for the ſaid land, according to our agreement, and by examination at the land office in Philadelphia, I find he cannot make me a title the land being located and ſurveyed to and for a certain Peter Painter, Theſe are to notify all and every perſon and perſons, not to take any aſſignment upon the beforementioned bond, as I am determined not to pay the money until I ſhall receive value for the ſame.

JAMES RICHARDSON.

Waſhington county, Jan. 18, 1787.

PITTSBURGH: *Printed and Sold by* JOHN SCULL and JOHN BOYD, *at their Printing-Office in Water-ſtreet, near the Ferry, where* Subſcriptions (at 17/6 per ann.) Advertiſements, *&c. for this Paper, are thankfully received, and* PRINTING *in its different Branches is done with Care, Elegance, and Expedition.*----ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a Square are Inſerted Three Weeks for a Dollar, and every continuance after one-fourth of a Dollar; thoſe exceeding a ſquare are inſerted in proportion.

Messieurs Scull & Boyd,

If you think the inclosed Poem worthy of a place in your paper, the insertion of it in your next, will much oblige

A Well-wisher to your Undertaking.

UPON Ohio's bank I musing sat
And mark'd with stedfast eye its tranquil tide,
Which deep, in easy curls copious flow'd,
And by th'evening sun illum'd, refulgent
Shone---A field of fluid gold. O'er my head
The lofty trees majestic wav'd their tops,
And thro' their branches sigh'd the southern breeze.
Not distant far a rill, from off a rock
That cross'd its bed, fell with a stilly noise,
Which wafted on the zephyr's balmy wing,
In gentle swellings, met my list'ning ear,
And hush'd my restless thoughts into a calm,
Reclin'd I sat. Upon my senses crept
The drowsy power, who nightly rules this world,
And in his leaden fetters chain'd them fast---
On the soft bank I sunk. Still fancy dwelt
Upon the waking scene. And lo! methought,
Upbursting from the flood, the river God*
To my astonish'd vision stood confest.
Grim, methought, he was and hedious glar'd
Like Indian warrior wild. A wreath
Of leaves of many a different tree entwin'd
With many a wild exotic plant and flower,
Circled his aged brows. Upon his head
A blazing cresant burn'd, just like the sun
When peeping from the east.---Half rais'd he stood---
His better hand a mighty trident grac'd,
Which mark'd him king of floods, and in his left
He held a golden horn. Wrath was the God---
The frighted river from his presence shrunk,
And press'd upon its banks. Frowning he spoke,
And in low thunder, thus his accents broke.
" Shall vain imperious mortals dare to check
" The rising glories of my wat'ry reign?
" Dare man contend, with Heav'n? why is it thus?
" Thro' such extensive space I copious
" Pour my urn; why is it, thus my banks, or
" In rich plains extend, or swell in fertile hills---
" Let man look round upon my vast domains,
" See the variety of soils and climes
" Thro which my water roll. Let him but view
(" The first faint dawning of my glorious day)
" My peopled bank, § already crouded thick
" With men inur'd to arms. Proud of their strength
" And jealous of their rights. Then let him pause----
" And judge if his weak law can bound my power,
" Can bar the intercourse of half the world."
He ceas'd. His awful words the water, woods
And hills rebellow'd wide. Into the wave
He sunk. The whirling wave clos'd o'er his head --
And I awoke. The shades of evening fell---
Already in the east bright Hesperus shone,
To guide my homeward steps, and Cynthia trim'd
Her silver lamp, to light the weary way.

* In the following description and speech sometimes the Missisippi is alluded to. The Genius is supposed to be common to both.

§ The south side of the Ohio is here meant.

The two Tradesmen and the Clown.

TWO traders were proceeding on a pilgrimage. A countryman who was prosecuting the same journey, having joined them on the road, they agreed to travel together, and to make a joint stock of their provisions. But when arrived within a day's journey of the holy place, it was almost wholly expended, so that they had nothing left but a little barley flour sufficient to make a small cake. The perfidious traders entered into a plot together to cheat their companion of his share, and from his stupid air, imagined they could dupe him without difficulty. " We must come to some agreement," said one of the citizens. " What will not assuage the hunger of three, may satisfy a single person," and I vote that it be allotted to one of us only. But that each of us may have a fair chance, I propose that we all three lie down and fall asleep; and that the bread may be the lot of him, who, on awaking, shall have had the most curious dream.

The other citizen, as we may readily suppose, approved vastly this suggestion. The countryman also signified his approbation, and pretended to give compleatly into the snare. They then made the bread, put it on the fire to bake, and laid down. But our tradesmen were so much fatigued with their journey, that without intending it, they fell soon into a profound slumber. The clown more cunning, waited only this opportunity, got up without noise, went and ate the bread, and then composed himself to rest.

Soon after one of the citizens awaked, and calling to his companions; " Friends," said he, " listen to my dream. I thought myself transported into hell. For a long time was kept suspended over the abyss of everlasting fire. There I was a witness of the torments of the damned. " And I," said the other, " dreamed that the gates of Heaven were opened to me. The arch-angels Michael and Gabriel, after raising me up into the sky, carried me before the throne of God. There was I a spectator of his glory." And then the dreamer began to recount the wonders of Paradise, as the other had of the infernal abodes.

The countryman, mean while, though he heard perfectly what they said, pretended to be still asleep. They went to rouse him from his slumber; when he, affecting the surprise of a man suddenly disturbed from rest, cried out, " What is the matter?" Why it is only your fellow travellers. What! do you not recollect us? Come arise, and inform us of your dream." " My dream? Oh! I have had a very droll one, and one that I am sure will afford you some diversion.---- When I saw you both carried away, the one to Heaven, the other to Hell, I thought that I had lost you for ever, I then got up, and as I expected never to see you more, I went and demolished the loaf."

One Hundred Dollars Reward.

RAN-AWAY from the subscriber, on the 11th of October last, an indented Irish servant Man, named JOHN BUCHANAN, about 28 years of age, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, black complexion, of a very effeminate appearance, short black hair, speaks with the brogue, is very pregnant with little artifice, and a notorious liar; had on a blue broadcloth coat, with yellow buttons, moleskin jacket, black breeches, and a large cocked castor hat; took with him two horses, one black, 15 and an half hands high, with a small star, his left hind foot white, marked on the right buttock U S, almost worn out; the other a bay; he carried a case of holster pistols and a fusil; endeavoured to change the horses in the Alleghany Mountain, on his way down the old Virginia road; he had then in company with him a young woman, whom he passed for his wife; he was bought of Jeremiah Warder, Parker & Co. in Philadelphia, on the 27th of May, 1784; says he was born in Cork, and is a glove-maker. As he had access to a large store in Pittsburgh, it appears that he has carried off a considerable sum of mony and other valuable property; it is therefore expected that he may escape to Ireland, should this be the case, the above reward shall be paid to any person that will have him apprehended, so that he may be brought to justice, and a reward of Forty Dollars shall be paid to any person that will have him taken up and secured in any workhouse or prison in the United States, so that his master may get him again, or that will deliver him to General Febiger, in Philadelphia; Walter Roe, in Baltimore; Michael M'Kewan, in Martinsburgh, Virginia, or the subscriber in Pittsburgh, and all reasonable charges.

Jan. 10, 1787. JAMES O'HARA.

DANIEL BRITT & Co. once more call on those indebted to the late house of Craig, Bayard & Co. to come and settle their accounts, as they need not expect any further lenity.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 20, 1786.

DANIEL BRITT & CO.

Have for Sale, a General Assortment of

MERCHANDIZE,

WHICH will be Sold on reasonable Terms for Cash, Flour, Whisky, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Wheat, Rye, Oats, Corn, Ashes, Candlewick, Tallow, &c &c.

Pittsburgh, July 28.

CERTIFICATES for the LAND-OFFICE

MAY *be had of the subscriber, at his office in Market-street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, nearly opposite the sign of the Black Bear, where every person applying may be furnished with the exact sum they may have occasion for in the land-office, and their warrants carried through without any other charge than the fees of the different offices, by*

THOMAS FORREST.

Who buys and sells all kinds of CERTIFICATES of this state, or any of the United States.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2, 1786.

CAME to the plantation of the subscriber, on the first of December, 1786, a Dun MARE, four years old, a small blaze in her forehead, both hind feet white, no brand or ear mark, a natural trotter. The owner is desired to come, property, pay charges, and take her away.

MATTHEW M'CLARAN.

Westmoreland, Jan. 18, 1787.

AN OFFICE

For the Purchase and Sale of the various kinds of Continental and State Certificates. Also Houses, Lots and Lands, by

MATTHEW M'CONNEL,

ON the east side of Second street, between Market and Chesnut streets, seven doors below Black Horse-alley, Philadelphia. Who furnishes Certificates for the Land Office, and will carry the warrants through, clear of any commission.

All applications and orders from persons residing in any part of this, or of the United States, will be punctually attended to; whether to make purchases or sales, payments in the land office, or to receive interest at the continental loan office or state treasury.

Just opened and to be sold by the subscriber living on the bank of the river, between Mr. David Duncan's and Mr. John Ormsby's.

A LARGE *and general assortment of* DRY *and* WET GOODS, *which he will dispose of on the most reasonable terms for cash, country produce, peltry or ginseng.*

JOHN GIBSON.

THE subscriber wishing to finish the business of JAMES O'HARA & Co. requests that all persons indebted to that firm, will make the necessary payments before the first day of May next, as his situation obliges him to put every open account belonging to the company, on that day, into the hands of their attorney. He hopes that his friends and customers will acknowledge the distant period fixed upon for payment, sufficiently generous, and that they will leave him no cause to exclaim or put them to any further trouble. Country produce of all kinds will be received at market prices: all those who have any demands, are informed that the necessary arrangement is made for making immediate payments of all the charges that may be brought against them.

James O'Hara.

Pittsburgh, January 24, 1787.

JUST opening at the Store of the subscriber in Pittsburgh, a complete cargo of West-India Goods, of the first quality, and other Groceries, to which will be shortly added, a general assortment of Dry Goods, as usual, all which will be sold on the most reasonable terms for cash, or any kind of country produce, at market price.

James O'Hara.

January 24, 1787.

WHEREAS there has been tickets granted to a number of persons, intitling such persons to a title for the therein mentioned lot or lots in the town of Washington, alias Bassett Ville, in the county of Washington and state of Pennsylvania, on condition, nevertheless, that there should be erected on each lot, a house of eighteen feet square at least, with a stone or brick chimney therein, within the time limited in such ticket. And whereas, the condition has not been complied with by a great majority of the holders of said tickets, and yet they cease not to impose on the unwary by transferring such ideal titles, while the right has long since escheated to the proprietors.

We therefore (to prevent such frauds for the future) have thought fit to give this public notice, and also to let all persons know who may have claims to lots in said town, that if they make application within two months from the date hereof, they shall have the preference on such easy terms as will, upon application, be made known to them: but if they do not apply within the time aforesaid, they shall ever after be precluded from any advantage intended them by the subscribers.

JOHN HOGE.
WILLIAM HOGE.

N. B. Out lots for grass, &c. adjoining said town, will be furnished on low terms.

Washington, Jan. 24, 1787.

WHEREAS, I, the subscriber, purchased a tract of land from Thomas Settles of Washington county, for which I have given him (along with others) a bond for the penalty of Three Hundred Pounds, dated on or about the seventh of November, 1786, for which I am now sued by the said Thomas Sellers. And whereas the said Thomas, has not made me a perfect title for the said land, according to our agreement, and by examination at the land office in Philadelphia, I find he cannot make me a title the land being located and surveyed to and for a certain Peter Painter, These are to notify all and every person and persons, not to take any assignment upon the beforementioned bond, as I am determined not to pay the money until I shall receive value for the same.

JAMES RICHARDSON.

Washington county, Jan. 18, 1787.

PITTSBURGH: *Printed and Sold by* John Scull and John Boyd, *at their Printing-Office in Water-street, near the Ferry, where* Subscriptions (at 12/6 per ann.) Advertisements, *&c. for this Paper, are thankfully received, and* PRINTING *in its different Branches is done with Care, Elegance, and Expedition.*----ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a Square are Inserted Three Weeks for a Dollar, and every continuance after one-fourth of a Dollar; those exceeding a square are inserted in proportion.